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LETTER,

T O T H E

IMPARTIAL, JUDICIOUS, BENEVOLENT,
and CANDID READER,

CONCERNING THE

PRACTICE of PHYSIC.

By PETER VON SARN. M. D.

at Northampton.

Φίλον μη λεγειν κακως αλλα μηδε εχθρον.

Amico ne maledicere, ac ne inimico quidem.

Pittacus apud Diog. Laert. lib. 1. p. 53.

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To the Impartial and Candid

R E A D E R.

S I N C E my coming to Northampton in September, 1764, for several months I practised physic, in *prescribing* only, without the least recommendation from the surgeons and apothecaries, who were not able to conceal their prejudices against me; but very early and frequently gave me occasion to conclude, that I had no favours to expect from them.

This being the case, I was at last determined, at the desire and request of such of my patients as were not concerned with any apothecary and surgeon, that I would *prepare* some medicines, especially such as were *peculiar* to myself. Indeed I judged it improper to have such *peculiar* medicines *prepared* by them, especially at such a juncture: However it is and shall be my determination to *prescribe* them *only*, in adjacent towns; leaving the apothecaries in each respective place to make them up; declaring, that if such apothecaries want any article belonging to the composition of such medicines, whether roots, herbs, flowers, seeds, foreign or domestic, or any chymical preparations, they shall be welcome to them from my house, without any charge.

It is well known that the apothecaries and surgeons act in every respect as *Physicians*; now I apprehend it full as eligible in itself and much more safe in re-

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gard to the patient, that the physician should act as an apothecary, especially in some cases.

They attend as *Physicians* perhaps weeks or months, till at last either through the uneasiness of the patient or the family, one of *Us* is sent for, and for the most part without their recommendation, if not against their inclination.

When we come, probably the patient is found to be either in the greatest extremity of danger, or in *Agone Mortis*, &c.

Without doubt, impartial reader, you have heard some of them say, "He is a Foreigner or Stranger." I would have them, as Christians, consider, *Exodus* xxvii. 21. Thou shalt neither vex a stranger, nor oppress him; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt. *Leviticus* xix. 33, 34. And if a stranger sojourn with thee in your land ye shall not vex him. But the stranger that dwelleth with you, shall be unto you as one born amongst you, and thou shalt love him as thyself, &c. compare *Deuteron.* x. 19. *Zechariah* vii. 10.

Properly speaking, we are all strangers *HERE*; and it highly concerns us to act as strangers, in a world which is of no farther importance to us, than as it is subservient to a future one, 1 *Chron.* xxix. 25. For we are strangers before thee, as were all our fathers. Our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding, compare *Psal.* cxix. 19.

Accord-

According to the common acceptation of the term, I am a *Stranger*, born at *Kreyfeld* * or *Crevelt*, where my father was a minister, both in the High-German and Low-Dutch languages, twelve years; from thence called to *Moers* where there is a Gymnasium † of which he was a Scholarcha and a preacher about twelve years more: On that gymnasium I was brought up, from thence went to the university of *Duisburg* ‡ on the Rhine, where I studied many years; this antient city gave birth to my father, and the above mentioned places are situated in his Prussian majesty's dominions; afterwards I studied at *Leyden*, *Utrecht*, *Harderwyck*; in the last commenced doctor of Physic, under the most learned and eminent professor John de Gorter, Anno 1752.

It is alledged that I am a foreigner: in the same manner one might argue, that the English physicians and other gentlemen residing in *Prussia*, *Holland* &c. are *Strangers* there.

I can assure you they are esteemed according to the law of God, as mentioned *Leviticus* xix. 33, 34. and

* A famous battle was fought here between Prince Ferdinand and the French.

† This Gymnasium consists of a rector, con rector and four other preceptors, provided with good salaries, from his majesty the King of Prussia, there are several of these in all cities throughout the kingdom, erected for the cultivation of learning.

‡ This *Duisburg* was the royal seat of Pharamundi and Clodii from A. D. 419. till about the year 440. The university was erected by Frederic Wilhelm, elector of Brandenburg, in the year 1655.

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dwell amongst them, as if natives, enjoying with them the same privileges, &c.

One saying I am a Foreigner, another may add, “ As such, he must be unacquainted with the *English* constitution.” But this is a mistake; I have lived in *England* for more than thirteen years past; but are not most of the diseases incident to human bodies the same in all parts of the globe? Perhaps they may add, “ His prescriptions are *foreign* to us.” This betrays a defect in their own understanding and is meant to deceive those of a lesser capacity.

But please to observe: Did not many English, Irish, and Scotch gentlemen study some years under the most celebrated professor Herm. Boerhaave, &c. at Leyden in Holland, take their degree, or obtain a diploma there; return to their own respective countries, settle and practice physic with success, on the system of their foreign master? and what is still more, a great number of the nobility and other gentlemen went over to Leyden for the benefit of his prescriptions, where he prescribed for them with success; and medicines were administered there on the spot; and without doubt many of his prescriptions were prepared here in England afterwards with the same good effect. Others who prosecuted their studies and took their degrees at Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, practice with success in Prussia, Holland, &c. on the system of their native masters. More might be observed here, but this is sufficient.

Probably a third person, tho' ever so low, starts up, "If he prepares medicines, he hurts us." So I may say to them, "If they continue acting as physicians they hurt me." However as they are entirely unacquainted with my peculiar medicines, I have no apprehensions of their being able to hurt me. Now, if any of the gentlemen apothecaries or surgeons, in this town, choose to enter into any controversy with me, let them but set their names to their performances, and I am ready to answer them, in what language, or on what subject they please.

With respect to you, gentlemen apothecaries and surgeons, in the market towns, &c. about Northampton, my sincere and hearty thanks wait on you for your civilities and candor, already experienced: I hope the further continuance of your favors; nothing shall be concealed from you, and nothing shall be wanting in me for the benefit of your patients; for whom I shall endeavour, under God's blessing, to prescribe, *cito, tuto, jucunde*, as speedily, effectually and agreeably as possible, concluding with Manlius.*

Certa mihi spes est, quod vitam qui dedit, idem
Et velit & possit suppeditare cibum.

I doubt not but he that hath given life both will and can support the same.

I am, Impartial, and Candid Reader,
Northampton, your most humble servant,
Nov. 30, 1765. Peter Von Sarn, M. D.

I have thought fit to subjoin to this Letter an APPENDIX, containing an Account of such Books as have been published, both by my Father and Myself.

The Books, &c. of my Father's publishing are,
In High-German,

- I. His Farewell of his fellow-students at Duisburg on the Rhine, when going to prosecute his studies further at Leyden, under the Professor Johannes a Marck, Saloman van Til, and Franc. Fabricius, in poetry, 1708. in quarto.
- II. His first and last answer to Asinius in poetry, 1710. quarto.
- III. The important character and wonderful works of the Son of God, in poetry, illustrated with observations as well Historical, as Philological, 1712. in octavo.
- IV. Poetry, of Hymns, firstpart, &c. &c. Anagrammata, Rondeaux, Chronodisticha, Epigrammata, Paronomasia, Acrosticha, 1713, in octavo.
- V. Thoughts on the vacant and now filled up throne of Great Britain, in poetry, with political and other observations 1714. in quarto.
- VI. Several Epithalamiums, Epitaphs and pieces of poetry, congratulatory and honorary, on various occasions, in Folio. All the above were printed at Duisburg on the Rhine.
- VII. Remembrance of his twenty-three years ministry, from Jer. xxv. 3. at a quarterly assembly held at Moers, &c. December the 2d 1733. *

* By the desire of the nobility and other gentlemen, it was printed at Lipsadt, 1734. in quarto. My father died soon after in the 47th year of his age.

Those in Latin are,

I. Observationes Bibliothecæ Bremensi insertæ.

1. De Septem Diaconis act, VI. 5. Class. III. Fasc. III. Num, VI. Anno 1720.
2. Cogitationes de Libano, ut Emblemate Ecclesiæ N. T. Class. III. Fasc. V. Num. IV. Anno 1720.
3. Mercurii cum Angelo Fœderis comparatio, Class. V. Fasc. II. Num. II. Anno 1721.
4. De Angelo Satanæ colaphizante Paulum ad 2 Cor. XIII, 7, 9. Observatio Nova, Class. VII. Fasc. III. Num. VI. Anno 1723.
5. De Nomine Novo ad Jes. LXII, 2. LXV, 15. et Apoc. II, 17. Cogitationes, Class. VII. Fasc. V. Num. IX. Anno 1724.

II. Dissertationes Historico-Philologico-Theologicæ separatim editæ.

1. De Galeis Veterum, Duisburgi ad Rhenum, Anno 1724. in Quarto.
2. De Falcibus Veterum. ibid. 1725. in Quarto.
3. De Hastis Veterum. ibid. 1726. in Quarto.
4. De Securibus Veterum. ibid. 1727. in Quarto.
5. De Loricis Veterum. ibid. 1728. in Quarto.

III. Observationum Philologicarum Tetras.

1. De Labro Mosis Æneo ad Exod. XXXVIII, 8.
2. De Lamentatione Davidis ad 2 Sam. XVIII, 33.
3. De Alis Venti ad Psalm. XVIII, 11.
4. De Ambulatione Navium ad Psalm. CIV, 26.
Duisburg 1729. in Quarto.

IV. Obser-

IV. Observatio Lightfootiana de Nomine Sethur, cujus literæ faciunt Numerum 666. ad Num. XIII. 14. coll. Apoc. XIII. 18. Notis commendatitiis illustrata in Miscellaneis Duisburgensibus, Tom. I. Fasc. III. Num. VI. Anno 1733.

Those published by me, are

I. In Poetry.

1. Both in the High-German and Low-Dutch languages, on various occasions.
2. Greek and Latin.

II. In prose.

1. The Horse of War out of Proverbs xxi. 31. Utrecht 1745. in octavo.
2. The Distant and Approaching Trumpet of war, famine, pestilence and persecution, Utrecht, 1746. in octavo.

III. In Latin.

1. De Dea Huldana, commentatiuncula 'Αυτοσχέδιον Ultraject. ad Rhenum. 1747. in Quarto.
2. Dissertatio Historico-Philologica, de cognominibus Jovis, Pars 1. id. 1747. in Quarto.
- 3 Disputatio Physiologico-Medica Inauguralis de Alimentis Corporis Humani, Pro Gradu Doctoratus Summisque in Medicina Honoribus & privilegiis ritè et legitime consequendis, Aug. 17, 1752. Harderovici. in quarto.

N. B. Any Gentleman of Curiosity and Learning may have the sight and perusal of them at my House in the *Gold-Street*, *Northampton*.

Here follows a true and exact Copy of my Diploma, with an Account of the Exercises I performed in Order to the obtaining it, by which it will be seen that my Right to practice as a Physician, is just and unquestionable.

*Reſtor & Senat. Academiae Ducat. Gelviae & Comitatus
Zutphaniae Lectorib. Salutem.*

LAUDABILE imprimis est Majorum nostrorum institutum, ut qui honestis studiis ac praeclaris artibus florem ætatis dedicaverunt antequam ad vitæ communis usum atque actiones publicas se conferant, Academiae alicujus subeant examen, debitumque eruditionis suæ testimonium ab ea petant. Cum igitur Præstantissimus ac Doctissimus PETRUS von SARN, *Petr. Fil.* reliquis suis studiis Medicinam quoque adjecisset, atque in ea, exquirenda diligentem, ac assiduam aliquos annos navasset operam, ut jam ad exhibendum doctrinæ suæ aliquod specimen paratus esset, petiit a nobis, ut se justo examine Spectatum titulo doctrinæ suæ convenienti meritisque laborum suorum præmiis ornaremus; Nos cum honestissimæ atque æquissimæ ejus petitioni deesse hac in parte non possemus, ipsum primo per Universam Medicinam accurate rigideque examinavimus. *Casum Morbi de Dyspepsia, Aph. 24, 25. Sect. 5. Hipp.* enucleantem atque explicantem; ad questiones & dubia, ad objectiones & proposita argumenta doctissime ac solidissime respondentem; Disputationem denique *de Alimentis Corporis Humani* præsentis animo ac singulari promptitudine propugnantem ac defendentem audivimus. In quibus omnibus cum laudabilem eruditionem eximiamque Medicinæ cognitionem, atque excultum omnibus morum ingenuæque indolis virtutibus animum nobis approbasset, idcirco

illi summos in Medicina honores lubentes ac volentes decrevimus. Quapropter ex potestate nobis ab Illustribus ac Praepotentibus *Ducatus Gelriae & Comitatus Zutphaniae Ordinibus* concessa, praenominatum PETRUM von SARN *Petr. Fil.* voce clarissimi ac experientissimi viri Dn. *Johannis de Gorter A.L.M. Pbil. & Med. Doct.* Eiusdemque Facultatis in Illustri *Ducatus Gelriae ac Comitatus Zutphaniae Academiae*, quae est *Hardervici*, *Professoris Ordinarii*, Medicinae Doctorem pronuntiavimus ac declaravimus, pronunciamus ac declaramus, dedimusque ac damus ei potestatem Cathedram doctoralem, ubi legitima vocatio praecesserit, conscendendi, de Medicina publice respondendi, Medicinam docendi, consilia dandi, disputandi, promovendi, atque Praxin ubivis locorum exercendi. Tribuimus ei insuper immunitates, privilegia, dignitates, praerogativa atque omnia alia insignia doctoralia, quaecunque in ullis aliis *Academiis* vere & legitime promoti *Medicinae Doctori*, legibus aut consuetudine concedi tribuique solent. In quorum omnium fidem Diploma hoc publicum majori *Academiae sigillo* corroboratum, & manu *Secretarii nostri* subsignatum, ei dari curavimus. *Hardervici Gel. ad Diem 17. Aug. 1752.*

JOHANNES HENRICUS VAN LOM, A.L.M. Philos. Doctor ejusdemque Facultatis ut et Mathes. ac Astron. Prof. Ord. h. t. *Academiae Pro-Rector.*

JOHANNES DE GORTER A.L.M. *Medicinae Doctor & Prof. Ordin.* ut et arthiater Promotor.

JOHANNES WILHELMUS MARCKART, J. U. D. ejusdemque Facultatis *Juris Publici Prof. Ord.*

JOHANNES WILHELMUS MARCKART, h. t. vice Secretarii fungens.

